

LIBRARY COMMISSION NEWSLETTER

2004 Quarrier St., Charleston, West Virginia (25311)

Vol. 17

July 1972

No. 3

INTROUDCING
WEST VIRGINIA'S
"ARTIST IN RESIDENCE",
MEADS DAVENPORT

This young artist, from Chesapeake, Virginia, will paint the West Virginia scene as an innovative Library Commission program. The Virginian, who considers himself primarily a landscape artist working with acrylics, is planning to enlarge his scope to include people and still lifes. He will spend a year traveling around the Mountain State, but his painting headquarters will be situated in Huntington where the Galleries have offered him studio space for the year.

A former student at the Ringling School of Art in Sarasota, he has won awards in poster work. Selected as the Poster of the Decade, "Free Reads - Get It at the Library", appeared on the cover of the Wilson Bulletin and "The In Place", a second poster, was featured by the Bulletin. Mr. Davenport was commissioned by the City of Chesapeake, Virginia,



James Nelson with Mr. Davenport

to create a mural for the municipal building at the age of sixteen. A busy schedule of display of Davenport's work has ensued since his arrival on June first, with exhibits held at St. Albans, Romney, Martinsburg, Clarksburg, Parkersburg, and will open July 16 in Huntington.

Davenport sees his purpose as three-fold, "to inject culture, raise funds for our rural library programs, and battle apathy about libraries and culture."

"SIGHTS, SOUNDS,
AND READS"

June 9, 1972

More than one hundred and twenty-five library staff members and audio-visual specialists registered at the Heart-O-Town Motor Inn in Charleston for the A-V Institute jointly sponsored by the Kanawha County Library and the Library Commission. The lead feature of the program was a slide show extravaganza produced by Philip Fraga and Fred Glazer for the Governor's Conference on Libraries in Virginia last year. The show employed 3 screens, 12 carousel projectors with 1,000 images, a 4 track magnetic sound tape, and digital computer. Mr. Fraga, who presented the show, was the winner of 1971 New York International Film and TV Festival grand award for multi-media.

New trends in A-V equipment were appraised by six exhibitors including demonstrations of Video-cassettes. A practitioner's panel during the afternoon afforded insight into special problems. Steve West, Director of the Audio-Visual Center at West Virginia State College, James Smith, Coordinator of Library Services for Monongalia County Schools, and Robert Willits, Librarian at St. Albans Public Library, composed the panel. Standardization of equipment was the most vital technical problem.

James Hales, Director of the Learning Resources Center at Fairmont State College, announced the opening of a Rental Collection of 16 mm sound educational movies. Rental fees for these Coronet films are \$2.75 per twelve minutes for black and white prints and \$4.00 per twelve minutes for color.

OVER 50,000
RESIDENTS
may
benefit
from
SPECIAL GRANTS

During their May tenth meeting, the members of the Library Commission authorized special grants to activate ten new projects with far-reaching impact. Seven new libraries were granted assistance for library materials and equipment: Northern Hancock at Chester (\$3,000), Brooke County at Wellsburg (\$1,500), Terra Alta (\$3,000), Paw Paw (\$3,000), Capon Bridge (\$1,500) and (\$5,000 each) for two county seat libraries, one at Pineville to serve Wyoming County and a second at Hamlin to serve Lincoln County. All of the grants will be administered through regional or service center libraries...

Two unusual projects are among those to be operated by Morgantown Service Center: (1) Cooperating with the Kingwood Public Library, twenty smaller communities in Preston County will have access to bookmobile service. The mobile unit is an old one rejuvenated by Mr. White and his boys at the

Forestry Camp at Davis. Though the unit may be a bit balky, the Driver-Librarian, Karl Eaton, who teaches school during the winter months, is lively and reports a good response. (2) Still in its formative stages is the "Books By Mail Service" planned for the residents of Tucker County. This is the only county in the State which still lacks a visible form of public library service.

DEDICATED
during
NATIONAL
LIBRARY
WEEK

"Jackie" McKown was guest speaker at the opening of the Wayne County Library in the basement of the Town Hall at Wayne. Senator McKown praised the cooperating libraries, Cabell County and Wayne County Library Boards, and the West Virginia Library Commission for their efforts to get a library in the town of Wayne. James Nelson, Director at Huntington, reciprocated with an award for Mr. McKown as an Honorary Friend of West Virginia Libraries. Mrs. Joyce Starkey is the new librarian at Wayne.

Philippi Public Library dedicated a new addition. This library, just five years old, had already outgrown its quarters on the second floor of the Memorial Building. An adjoining open terrace room was enclosed and attractively equipped and air conditioned. Hosting the affair on April 16 were the Philippi Senior Citizens and the Library Board. The librarian is Mrs. Mary Leach who reports that some areas of the new section will be devoted to display of historical documents, books, and papers pertaining to the town's importance in the Civil War.

MOVIES
AL FRESCO
VIA THE TRAILER
LIBRARIES

Don't say public libraries lack appeal for the illiterate! The Library Commission's Book Express Service is introducing silent movie showings outside in the good ole mountain air. One hundred and sixty subjects have been selected ranging from "Batman" to "Bambi" and "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" to Laurel and Hardy comedies.

Several hundred new borrowers have been registered through the eight new service points for the Commission's book trailers: Bramwell in Mercer County, Omar in Logan County, Whitesville in Boone County, Normantown in Gilmer County, Camden-on-Gauley in Webster County, Alderson in Summers County, Kopperston in Wyoming County, and West Hamlin in Lincoln County. Depending upon the degree of response, these points will be retained in the winter months.

REPORT
from
CONSTRUCTION
SCENE

The funding and planning for the libraries at Ripley and Ravenswood is now complete. Gandee, Thomas, and Sprouse Associates met a June 17 deadline for approved final drawings. Bids are now being sought from contractors. Ohio County construction is approaching completion with plans to open sometime in the late Fall.

Lively new interest is being generated in Wood County. The Junior League of Parkersburg is spearheading the program for an adequate physical plant. The league is putting up \$15,000 to begin the project. The suburban community of Vienna is also mounting a fund campaign and has a billboard in their community with the caption, "Books Can Bring the Whole World to Vienna".

PUBLIC
LIBRARIES SALUTE
THE
AGED & THE
HANDICAPPED

Kanawha County featured photos of four well-known Charlestonians, retirees who are contributing valuable service to the public as library aides. Their jobs include meeting the public, obtaining reference material, locating books, helping librarians, and operating machines.

These paid part-time workers include a former engineer with the telephone company, a college registrar, a cost accountant, and a college teacher.

Hampshire County Library at Romney featured a special exhibit on Helen Keller and equipment for handicapped such as a braille and a reading stand. St. Joseph's Hospital at Parkersburg is working with the Carnegie Library of Parkersburg to introduce the Talking Book to the physically and visually handicapped patients.

"MEDIA, MATERIALS,
AND MACHINE"
THEME:
AMERICAN LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE
JUNE 25 - JULY 1

Keynoting the annual conclave of librarians in Chicago this year, Norman Cousins sounded a clarion call for more emphasis on creativity. Admitting that he has been told to 'have his head examined' for attempting a new magazine (World Review is his new magazine), he quipped that it was cheaper to start it than pay a psychiatrist. Staunchly defending the value of print, he commented, "Print is still the principle way in which ideas are formed and decisions made. Civilization receives its basic energy from this source. Since no technique is as communal as print, we should concern ourselves with the uses to which print is put. It is the interaction between print and the mind which makes civilization." He concluded a very cogent and brief address to the first General Session held at the Hilton Hotel, "A society has a long life to live if it retains an important place for creativity. A nation will not last which does not have total respect for creativity."

In line with ALA's new emphasis, Carolyn Whitenack of Purdue University commented on new media in "Can We Afford Communication?" She praised the innovative programs at Dallas Public on Ethnic Films and the Dial-A-Book program through a Watts Line in South Central Kansas System. Adding perspective to the value placed on the new media, she commented on nationwide expenditures: "Of the eight hundred million dollars spent on public library service in the United States, one hundred and thirty-two million dollars is expended on materials. In larger libraries, nine percent of that amount now goes on audio-visual service."



PUBLIC LIBRARY TRUSTEE
LUNCHEON
MAY 20, 1972

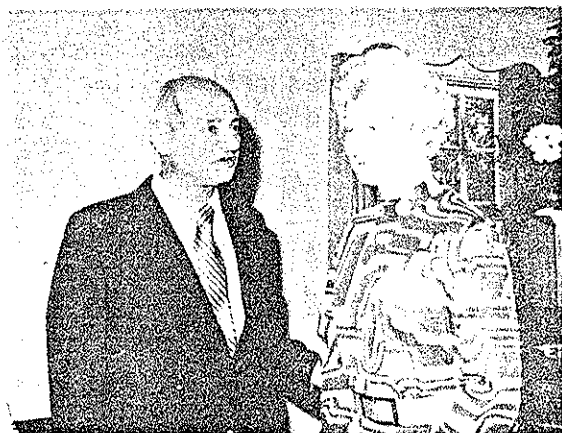
Co-sponsor with the Field Services of the Library Commission was Fayette County Library Board represented by trustee, Gordon Billheimer, Mrs. Josephine Anderson, Library Director, and Russell Blake, Vice Mayor of Oak Hill.

PUBLIC
LIBRARY
DEVELOPMENT
AWARD
WINNERS



Fred Glazer, Executive Secretary, flanked by two Mayors: Merle White of Richwood and Clarence Monday of Hamlin. Both officials created new library boards this year.

Anthony J. Sparacino, winning board chairman, with Frances Jones.



Ellen Wilkerson (Hamlin),
R. W. Wilkinson (Bluefield),
Betty Dransfield (Monroe County),
W. F. Staats (Wyoming County).



EIGHTH
REGIONAL
CONFERENCE
for
THE BLIND and
PHYSICALLY
HANDICAPPED

Mrs. Dolly Rapking, librarian in charge of West Virginia's Regional Library for the Library Commission, reported that our State had the largest full-time group in attendance at Louisville's Printing House for the Blind. Nine West Virginians attended the Library of Congress sponsored sessions in which emphasis was placed on learning about new technical developments in serving the handicapped reader. There is still work ensuing on conversion of Talking Books to 8 rpm (most are now 16 rpm) and the direct circulation of all recorded magazines from their production source rather than through the regional libraries.

Attending with Mrs. Rapking was Ben Robertson, Supervisor of Mail Services to the Blind at the Commission's Regional Library; Ray Thomas of the Statewide Advisory Council; Dr. Robert Stillwell of West Virginia University, who serves as technical advisor for the Library Commission; Nicholas Winowich and Charlton Smith of Kanawha County Public; Judy Rule and Wilda Riggs of Cabell County; and Sid Allen, Treasurer of the West Virginia Federation for the Blind.

INNOVATIONS
in
SERVICE

Cabell County Library has reached an agreement with Lawrence County Library, which has headquarters across the river in Ironton, to honor each library's borrower's cards. This reciprocity has been encouraged by the new interstate library compact law passed in the last session of the West Virginia Legislature.

In Martinsburg, The Ruritan Clubs have bought a used house trailer, outfitting it with shelving, carpeting, and a custom-made desk, to replace the North Berkeley Branch at Marlowe. The public library branch will be a stationary unit near its old location adjacent to a huge new trailer park. The branch had been located in rented quarters nearby.

STAFF NOTES

Mrs. Mary Guiney, Order Librarian for the Library Commission for more than sixteen years, has announced her retirement for this coming September. Mary was bitten by the public library bug in the Jackson County Library at Ripley about 20 years ago; later, she kept things lively on the first regional bookmobile for Alpha Library. She will leave a big gap in Commission staff as she moves to Atlanta to live near her two daughters.

In Wheeling, the Ohio County Bar Association honored retiring law librarian, Harry Jones, upon his completion of twelve years of service.

On the college scene, Mrs. Robert Rosier, who has been the head librarian at Fairmont State College since 1958, has retired this month to be succeeded by Robert LeMasters who had been serving as Assistant.

More than eighty staff and former co-workers bid farewell on June 16 to Mrs. Virginia Perry who has spent the last fifteen years in charge of circulation at West Virginia University.